

1939

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Carmarthen Urban Sanitary Authority

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# 67th Annual Report

OF THE

Sanitary Conditions of the County of the  
Borough of Carmarthen

— BY —

ELFYN T. JONES

B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

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1940.



# CARMARTHEN URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY

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## SIXTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE COUNTY OF THE  
BOROUGH OF CARMARTHEN.

BY

### ELFYN T. JONES

B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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## PREFACE

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Members of the Council of the  
Borough of Carmarthen.

I beg to present my annual report for the year ending  
December 31st, 1939, which is in the form suggested by  
Circular 1961 (Wales).

In view of the increasing pressure of work in the public  
health department the Welsh Board of Health consider that  
interim reports need only be made for the year 1939. There-  
fore, this report must appear brief as compared with those  
of my predecessors; but records are being carefully preserved  
so that after the termination of the war, a full report for the  
whole period can be made.

My arrival in Carmarthen coincided with the outbreak of  
war—a most difficult time at which to take up a new appoint-  
ment, and I wish to gratefully acknowledge the work carried  
out by all the members of my staff, and to thank the members  
of the Council for the encouragement and support they have  
given me.

I wish to thank my colleagues and their staffs for their  
co-operation and help.

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## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

ELFYN T. JONES, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

CLERK TO THE COUNTY OF THE BOROUGH OF  
CARMARTHEN—Howard B. White, Esq.

BOROUGH ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR — G. L.  
Ovens, Esq.

OPHTHALMIC SURGEON—J. J. Healy, M.B., B.Ch.,  
F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

EAR, NOSE AND THROAT SURGEON—C. P. Robinson,  
F.R.C.S. (Edin.)

SCHOOL DENTAL SURGEON—Gwilym Evans, L.D.S.,  
R.C.S. (Eng.)

OBSTETRIC CONSULTANT—Dr. Lloyd Davies, M.D.,  
F.R.C.S.

SANITARY INSPECTORS—James Evans, C.R.S.I. (full  
time), also Shops Inspector. Eric W. Francis, C.R.S.I.,  
M.S.I.A.

VETERINARY SURGEON—J. F. Rees, M.R.C.V.S.  
(Eng.).

FOOD AND DRUGS INSPECTOR—W. H. Evans, Chief  
Constable.

HEALTH VISITOR AND SCHOOL NURSE—Octavia  
Davies, C.M.B.

CLERK TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—  
D. J. Lewis.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The Carmarthen Urban District Authority is comprised of the Parish of St. Peter's and is 5,160 acres in extent. The area is largely rural and is undeveloped.

### Population, Rateable Value, etc.

The estimated population made by the Registrar General for mid-year, 1939, was 11,070. The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year, according to the Rate Book is 3,050 (approx.). The rateable value of the Borough is £59,265 and the sum represented by a penny rate is £233 17s. 9d.

### Social Conditions.

Carmarthen is a very old borough, it is the county town of Carmarthenshire and is an agricultural centre. Because of its geographical situation it is the hub of the county and an important centre, especially from the road communication point of view. The main occupations are associated with agriculture, the railway, shop assistants, clerical work, garage workers and commercial travellers. There are a few colliers living in the area who work outside the area.

### Vital Statistics.

	Total	M	F	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population
Live Births { Legitimate ...	143	80	63	13.07
Illegitimate ...	4	2	2	0.33
				Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births
Still Births ...	9	4	5	57.6
				Death Rate
Deaths ...	142	75	67	12.8

### Deaths From Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal sepsis ...	0	0.00
Other puerperal causes ...	0	0.00
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00</b>

## Death Rate of Infants under One year of Age—

All infants per 1,000 live births—47.6.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births—47.6.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births—0.00.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—17.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)—0.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)—0.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)—0.

## Deaths in the Borough.

The number of deaths registered in the Borough during the year is 75 males, 67 females.

These figures are altered by inward and outward transfers thus:—

	Males.		Females.		Total.
Deaths registered in the area ...	146	...	127	...	273
Outward transfers ...	75	...	62	...	137
Inward transfers ...	4	...	2	...	6
<hr/>					
Total Borough Deaths ...	75	...	67	...	142

Thus the total number of Borough deaths is 142, giving a crude death rate of 12.8 per 1,000 population.

To compare the crude death rates of different areas would give an erroneous impression and such factors as average age of the population, proportion of sexes, type of industry, etc., must be taken into account. The Registrar-General provides us with a factor which assists in converting the crude death into a standardised death-rate which is more efficient for comparison purposes. The factor given is 0.94, and the standardised death-rate hence becomes 12.03.

## Comparison of Standardised Death-Rate with Other Areas.

	Death Rate per 1,000 population.
England and Wales ...	12.1
126 County Borough and Great Towns ...	12.0
148 Smaller Towns ...	11.2
London Administrative County ...	11.9
Borough of Carmarthen ..	12.03

## **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.**

### **Laboratory Facilities.**

At the outbreak of the war, the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service established itself in South Wales. It is hoped that this Laboratory will open at Carmarthen in the New Year. This Laboratory will carry out bacteriological investigations in Public Health.

### **New Clinic (Maternity and Child Welfare and Education Committees).**

A new Clinic, built for Maternity and Child Welfare and Education purposes, was opened on the 28th February, 1939, and is situated in Pond Street, Carmarthen. This Clinic has proved a boon in the treatment of expectant mothers, infants, toddlers and school children. Clinics are held as follows:—

- (a) Child Welfare Clinic—Mondays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- (b) Anti-Natal Clinic—Thursdays, 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon.
- (c) Toddlers' Clinic—On the 1st Tuesday in every month (2—4 p.m.).
- (d) Minor Ailment Clinic—Five times a week, 9.30 a.m.
- (e) Dental Clinic—Fridays, 10.30 a.m.—2.30 p.m.

### **Attendances—Welfare Centre.**

No. on register at the end of 1939—193.

No. of new cases under 1 year of age—99.

No. of new cases over 1 year of age—15.

No. of attendances by children under 1 year of age—69.

No. of attendances by children between 1 and 5 years of age—124.

### **Maternity Service.**

The facilities available for the provision of maternity beds and the services of an Obstetric Consultant were the same as in the previous year.



## Samples of Water Taken During the Year.

Date.	Source.	Type of Examination	Result.
27. 5. 39	Lower Cwmoernant	Chemical & Bacteriological	Chem. Satisfactory Bact. Satisfactory
27. 5. 39	Upper Cwmoernant	"	Chem. Fairly Satisfactory Bact. Unsatisfactory
30. 5. 39	Trevaughan Well	"	Both Satisfactory
30. 5. 39	Cwmtawel Supply	"	"
23. 6. 39	Cwmoernant Water after Chlorination	"	Unsatisfactory
8. 7. 39	Cwmoernant Supply	"	Quite Satisfactory
14. 7. 39	Peterwell, Johnstown	"	Chem. " " Bact. Unsatisfactory

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

In November, an order known as the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations, 1939, was brought into force by the Ministry of Health. Under his Order Measles and Whooping Cough became compulsorily notifiable.

During the year Diphtheria was prevalent in the town and towards the latter part it became epidemic. During the whole year 111 cases of Diphtheria were notified and of this number 96 cases were notified between August and December. Furthermore, the number of cases notified during the quarter ended 31st December, 1939, was 70.

There was unfortunately three deaths from the disease.

One peculiar feature of the epidemic was that most cases were notified on days of the week immediately following the week-end. This seemed to indicate that during the week-end, there occurred an opportunity for the assembly of school children from all parts of the borough at a common gathering ground, such as Saturday afternoon cinemas. Despite the fact that parents were strongly advised to keep their children away from such meeting places, not the slightest notice was taken of this, and Saturday afternoon matinees were as popular as ever.



Another feature of the epidemic was that with few exceptions, the cases were of a mild type, so much so, that many of the children undoubtedly were suffering from diphtheria for some days before being taken to the Doctor's Surgery, where the diagnosis was made. This was a big factor in the spread of the disease.

### Diphtheria Immunisation.

The Borough scheme was continued during the year. The material used is Toxin-antitoxin floccules (T.A.F.). During the year 594 children were immunised, 560 of them being immunised during the last quarter. This is encouraging and it is hoped to continue this good start so that the time will not be too far distant when every child will have been immunised against diphtheria.

### Tuberculosis.

No. of new cases on register during the year 1939 is 20 (11 males; 9 females).

No. of deaths during the year is 7 (6 males; 1 female).

### New Cases of, and Mortality from, Tuberculosis,

Age Period In years	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-15	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
15-25	2	3	1	0	1	0	0	0
25-35	3	4	0	0	1	1	0	0
35-45	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-55	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
55-65	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Totals	10	8	1	1	6	1	0	0

### Rates per 1,000 Population of Notifications and Deaths.

Year	Notifications (New Cases)	Deaths.
1934	1 59	0 75
1935	1·48	1·23
1936	1·75	1 65
1937	1 55	0·73
1938	1·5	0·27
1939	1 8	0 63

### Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938.

- (a) No. of Tuberculin - Tested Licences in force in Borough—1.
- (b) No. of Accredited Licence holders in Borough—18.
- (c) No. of Tuberculin-Tested Milk Samples taken 3.
- (d) No. of Accredited Milk Samples taken—58.

Samples of Milk taken—56.

No. reported as satisfactory—18.

No. reported as unsatisfactory—38.

This position is unsatisfactory.

All the results are sent to the producer, who is informed whether the result is satisfactory or not. In the event of an unsatisfactory result, the sanitary inspector or the medical officer of health pays a visit of inspection. The cause of most of the unsatisfactory results seem to be lack of sterilisation of utensils. An effort is being made to point out the importance of scrupulous cleanliness in milk production, but much more will have to be done.

### Meat.

On the outbreak of the war in September, 1939, the abattoir in Carmarthen became the central place for slaughtering, all other slaughterhouses being closed. The three sanitary inspectors of the Rural District assisted the Borough Sanitary Inspector in the inspection of carcasses slaughtered there.

# Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed if known ... ..	1375	639	8226	1067
Number inspected ...	1375	639	8226	1067
<b>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS</b>				
Whole carcases condemned ... ..	1	...	3	...
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	11	...	24	...
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	·87 %		·32 %	...
<b>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</b>				
Whole carcases condemned ... ..	...	...	..	...
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1	...	...	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	0·7 %	...	...	·56 %

# (vi.) SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA

## GENERAL SANITATION.

Nature of Visit or Inspection.	No. of Visits.
Water Supplies ... ..	17
Drainage ... ..	82
Offensive Trades ... ..	4
Tents, Vans, Sheds ... ..	Nil
Factories ... ..	Nil
Workshops ... ..	72
Workplaces ... ..	15
Bakehouses ... ..	28
Public Conveniences ... ..	66
Refuse Collection ... ..	2
Refuse Disposal ... ..	12
Rats and Mice ... ..	39
Schools ... ..	7
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits ... ..	103

## HOUSING.

Nature of Visit or Inspection.	No. of Visits.
<b>Under Public Health Acts.</b>	
Number of houses inspected ... ..	313
Visits paid to above houses ... ..	313
<b>Under Housing Acts.</b>	
Number of houses inspected ... ..	63
Visits paid to above houses ... ..	66
<b>Overcrowding.</b>	
Number of houses inspected ... ..	46
Visits paid to above houses ... ..	46
<b>Verminous Premises.</b>	
Number of houses inspected ... ..	5
Visits paid to above houses ... ..	6
<b>Miscellaneous Housing Visits</b> ... ..	112

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Inquiries in cases of Infectious Disease ... ..	152
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits ... ..	2
No. of rooms disinfected ... ..	149
No. of times Steam Disinfectors used ... ..	151

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

<b>Inspection of Meat and Meat Shops.</b>	
No. of Slaughterhouses in area ... ..	1
No. of Slaughterhouses visited ... ..	1
No. of visits made to above Slaughterhouses ... ..	354
No. of visits to Shops and Stalls... ..	552
No. of visits to butchers ... ..	2713

**Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.**

No. of producers in area	...	...	...	72
No. of retail purveyors in area	...	...	...	28
No. of visits to cowsheds	...	...	...	64
No. of new cowsheds provided	...	...	...	1
No. of cowsheds reconditioned	...	...	...	6

**NOTICES SERVED.****Under the Housing Acts.**

No. of informal notices served	...	...	...	Nil
No. of informal notices complied with	..	...	...	Nil
No. of statutory notices served	...	...	...	Nil
No. of statutory notices complied with	...	...	...	Nil

**Under the Public Health Acts.**

No. of informal notices served	...	...	...	77
No. of informal notices complied with	...	...	...	67
No. of statutory notices served	...	...	...	17
No. of statutory notices complied with	...	...	...	17

**Under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.**

No. of informal notices served	...	...	...	6
No. of informal notices complied with	...	...	...	6

Proceedings under Section 25D of the Housing Act, 1936.

No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made—59.

No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders—33.







